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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Appalachian Mountain Club

Project No. 14657-000

Notice Of Application Accepted for Filing, Intent to Waive Scoping, Soliciting Motions to Intervene and Protests, Ready for Environmental Analysis, and Soliciting Comments, Terms and Conditions, Recommendations, Prescriptions, and Establishing an Expedited Schedule for Processing

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- a. Type of Application: Original Minor License
- b. Project No.: 14657-000
- c. Date filed: December 29, 2014
- d. Applicant: Appalachian Mountain Club
- e. Name of Project: Zealand Falls Hydroelectric Project
- f. Location: On Whitehall Brook, in the Town of Bethlehem, Grafton County, New Hampshire. The project occupies 0.66 acres of federal land managed by the US Forest Service.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 USC 791 (a) - 825(r).
- h. Applicant Contact: James Wrigley, Appalachian Mountain Club, PO Box 298, Gorham, New Hampshire 03581, (603) 466-8110; jwrigley@outdoors.org.
- i. FERC Contact: John Baummer, (202) 502-6837, or e-mail at john.baummer@ferc.gov.

j. Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, terms and conditions, recommendations, and prescriptions: 30 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 45 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and protests, comments, terms and conditions, recommendations, and prescriptions using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14657-000.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted for filing and is now ready for environmental analysis.

l. Project Description: The existing, unlicensed Zealand Falls Hydroelectric Project consists of: (1) a 27-foot-long, 3-inch diameter intake pipe with a 1/8-inch welded wire debris screen; (2) a 50.5-inch-long, 26.5-inch-wide, 31-inch-high settling tank; (3) a 1,374-foot-long penstock consisting of a 970-foot-long, 3-inch-diameter section connected to a 404-foot-long, 2-inch diameter section; (4) a 47.75-inch-wide, 41.25-inch-long generator shed; (5) a single turbine-generator unit with an installed capacity of 2.5 kilowatts; (6) a 6.5-foot-long, 3-inch diameter drain line; (7) a buried 300-foot-long, 48-volt transmission line connecting the turbine-generator unit to Zealand Falls Hut; and (8) appurtenant facilities. The project generates approximately 1,010 kilowatt-hours annually. The applicant proposes to continue operating the project in a run-of-river mode.

m. Due to the applicant's close coordination with federal and state agencies during preparation of the application, the inclusion of draft terms and conditions with the

application, and the lack of any new construction in the applicant's proposal, we intend to waive scoping and expedite the licensing process. Based on a review of the application, resource agency consultation letters including the preliminary terms and conditions, and comments filed to date, Commission staff intends to prepare a single environmental assessment (EA). Commission staff determined that the issues that need to be addressed in its EA have been adequately identified during the pre-filing period, and no new issues are likely to be identified through additional scoping. The EA will consider assessing the potential effects of project operation on geology and soils, aquatic, terrestrial, threatened and endangered species, recreation, and cultural and historic resources.

n. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. Any qualified applicant desiring to file a competing application must submit to the Commission, on or before the specified intervention deadline date, a competing development application, or a notice of intent to file such an application. Submission of a timely notice of intent allows an interested person to file the competing development application no later than 120 days after the specified intervention deadline date. Applications for preliminary permits will not be accepted in response to this notice.

A notice of intent must specify the exact name, business address, and telephone number of the prospective applicant, and must include an unequivocal statement of intent to submit a development application. A notice of intent must be served on the applicant(s) named in this public notice.

Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, and .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST", "MOTION TO INTERVENE", "NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION," "COMPETING APPLICATION," "COMMENTS," "REPLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "TERMS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRESCRIPTIONS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

p. Procedural schedule: The application will be processed according to the following procedural schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

MILESTONE

Notice of the availability of the EA

TARGET DATE

August 2015

Dated: February 13, 2015

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.